



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Modern Egypt. By the EARL OF CROMER. (New York: The Macmillan Company. Two volumes. 1908. Pp. xviii + 594; 600.)

The Egyptian question, wrote Lord Milner in 1892, "has one underlying defect—that it is never simple; it has one ineradicable charm—that it is never commonplace." The two volumes by the master-builder of *Modern Egypt* bear out the statement of his former subordinate. Such an account proceeding from the great British proconsul could not have been in any sense commonplace. If the subject be not clear it is surely not the fault of the present direct, clear and temperate treatment of it. Lord Cromer has that literary style which now and then men of action have developed. With him there is added an ability to make use of allusion and quotation in an apparently incidental fashion, as delightful and illuminating as it is sometimes unexpected. *Modern Egypt* is a book of transcendent importance, not only to the student of modern history and diplomacy, but to those interested in the workings of the British constitution, or in the tutelage of native peoples.

The author's object was twofold: first, to give a narrative of events in Egypt from 1876 to 1892, with an account of the reduction of the Soudan as a continuation; and second, to render a statement of the work actually done during the period of British occupation. Perhaps the greatest popular interest centers in that part of the book concerned with the first object. The narrative begins practically with the creation of the international commission of the public debt in 1876. When Great Britain finally decided to appoint a member of this commission, Lord Cromer, then Major Sir Evelyn Baring, was selected. With the exception of the period from 1880 to 1883, spent in India in administrative service, the author was in Egypt, first as debt commissioner, then as one of the two controllers, and finally, since 1883, as British agent and consul-general. The narrative falls naturally into the divisions represented by his various activities. The first part is largely concerned with the complicated financial matters which marked the failure of the khedivial government in 1876, the attempt at the reorganization of the finances by the commissioners, and the fall of Ismail Pasha. As early as 1857 Lord Palmerston had outlined British policy in Egypt: "We do not want to have Egypt. What we wish about Egypt is that it should continue to be attached to the Turkish empire, which is a security against its belonging to any European power." In 1879 England's attitude was not far different from this. While England and France were then mutually jealous, it was manifestly to the interest of each power that

they coöperate for peace. The desideratum was, by checking the worst of the existing abuses, "and thereby obviating the necessity for further interference, to prevent the Egyptian question from becoming European rather than local." The mutiny of the Egyptian army (1881) was the turning-point in Great Britain's attitude. England was led by France "into a groove hostile to Turkish intervention, with the result that British intervention became eventually a necessity." The joint-note to the khedive of January, 1882, was drafted by Gambetta with Granville's acquiescence. Its effect was that "the British government pledged themselves to a greater degree of interference in Egyptian internal affairs, than the actual circumstances of the case appear to have necessitated * * * From the moment the joint-note was issued, foreign intervention became an almost unavoidable necessity." According to Cromer, therefore, it was the joint-note of 1882, and not the earlier appointment of European controllers, which resulted in the occupation of Egypt. British occupation in 1882 he believes not only to have been the only possible, but probably the best, solution of the then existing difficulties. England drifted by accident into Egypt but by so doing, she did not only what was right, but also what was most in accord with British interests. Such sentiments have a familiar ring, even to Americans. With the return of Baring to Egypt in 1883 the interest is grouped about the question of the Soudan, the evacuation of which he recommended. From this point the narrative is intensely interesting, although Cromer cannot be said to have given Gordon a completely sympathetic treatment. Gordon was an enthusiast, perhaps a mystic, while Baring was a cautious administrator, whose strength some might lay to a lack of imagination, others to a masterful contempt of fixed and logical policies. The author disparages the method of Gordon's selection. He is unsparing in criticism of Gordon's erratic designs and shifting plans, though he praises his courage. Condemnation of Gladstone for the delay in relieving Khartoum is unqualified. "*Les fautes de l'homme puissant,*" quotes Lord Cromer, "*sont les malheurs publics,*" and he adds: "Mr. Gladstone's error of judgment in delaying too long the despatch of the Nile expedition left a stain on the reputation of England which it will be beyond the power of either the impartial historian or the partial apologist to efface." A large part of the second volume is given to a topical treatment of the various phases of the Egyptian problem and of what has been done towards its solution. The Egyptian Puzzle (part four) is a consideration of the position of the dwellers in Egypt: Moslems, Copts, Syrians, Armenians and Europeans. For those

Europeanized Egyptians, de-Moslemized and usually non-Christian, Lord Cromer has little praise. The Anglophobia of the group calling itself "Young Egypt" he admits has not diminished during recent years, and he refuses to concede that this section of the people is in any sense possessed of a national spirit. Internationalism, even of the courts, he regards, perhaps naturally, merely as an obstacle to efficient administration. Part five, upon British policy in Egypt, is a rapid statement of what is correctly called a struggle for a policy. In 1883 Baring proposed the temporary assumption by England of the task of governing Egypt. When the Gladstone government declined definitely to commit itself upon the proposal, Baring then set about evolving order out of chaos. How well he succeeded, part six, describing the reforms (the abolition of the *corvée*, *courbash*, and corruption, and the financial and material regeneration of the country, bears witness. The present stage of the Egyptian question Lord Cromer admits is to prevent a relapse into the confusion which existed in the pre-reforming days. For this purpose a British garrison is necessary. Even with the free hand which the Anglo-French agreement of 1904 provides, the ultimate solution of the Egyptian problem is by no means near. "A further Egyptian problem remains behind. It consists in gradually adapting the institutions of the country to the growing needs of the population. Possibly time will also solve that problem, but unless disaster is to come, it must be a long time." Such a question is ever present in an imperialistic régime. From the standpoint of the governors the institutions of the governed are never quite adapted to the growing needs of the population. Upon reading the brilliant record of Lord Cromer in Egypt one cannot resist the feeling that there as elsewhere, despite appearances, the East is far from the West; that occidental institutions, forms of government, and administration are alien to the oriental minds and that Egypt is still the land of paradox.

JESSE S. REEVES.

The Admiralty of the Atlantic. An Enquiry into the Development of German Sea-power, Past, Present and Prospective. By PERCIVAL A. HISLAM. (London: Longmans, Green and Company. 1908. Pp. xvi + 214.)

The title of this book is adapted from the signal sent by the kaiser to the czar in the harbor of Revel, August, 1902, "The admiral of the Atlantic greets the admiral of the Pacific." Since that time the emperor